

oped. The information gathered during the assessment is used to modify the management activity and, if necessary, pose new management strategies.

The goals of the management approach are simple. They are intended to apply in the order listed and to establish a firm foundation for both conservation and recovery. All actions proposed for salmon conservation and recovery fit into one of the categories below.

1. **First, do no harm.**

Reduce and prevent harm by abandoning, modifying or mitigating existing programs, projects and activities.

2. **Conservation**

Protect key watersheds, landscapes, and habitats by acquisition, regulation or voluntary action.

3. **Remediation**

Restore, rehabilitate and enhance damaged habitats to complement conservation actions.

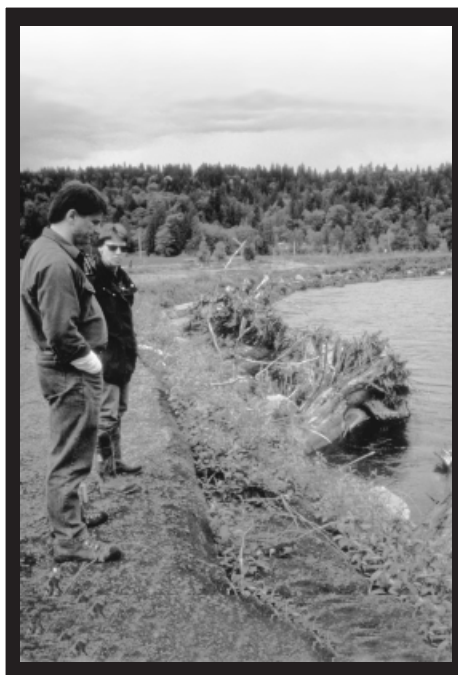
4. **Research**

Fill critical gaps in scientific and institutional information.

Chapter 3: Factors for the Decline of Chinook Salmon

Chinook salmon in King County are affected by a wide and complex array of natural factors operating at both local and far-ranging scales. Human actions, however, can strongly modify these natural cycles and disturbance regimes, and often exacerbate adverse consequences associated with them. Human actions also result in a host of additional problems, such as over-fishing, migration blockages, introduction of non-native species, hatchery interactions, and reductions in the quantity and quality of physical habitat, water quality and flow.

The Tri-County approach of watershed-based planning will evaluate the specific factors for decline and restoration needs in each watershed.



Chapter 4: Legal Authorities to Contribute to Conservation

This chapter outlines King County's legal authorities most relevant to advancing environmental protection, including protection of wildlife habitat. These authorities are expressed in King County's many existing ordinances, codes and regulations. This chapter demonstrates to NMFS that the County has the legal authority to enact the early actions it is proposing to undertake.

King County Specific Authority/Programs

In general, the County has broad legislative and regulatory authority granted it by state law as a "Home Rule" charter county. More specifically, many of the County's proposed early actions to conserve salmon are associated with specific standards governing land development within the unincorporated areas of King County. These portions of King County tend to be its least developed areas, so that regulation of the unincorporated landscape offers greater opportunities to protect existing, higher quality salmonid habitat.



Through three key Development Standards – Sensitive Areas Ordinance, Clearing and Grading Code, and Stormwater Management (Surface Water Runoff Policy and Surface water Design Manual) – the County is able to impose many significant controls on land development.

Sensitive Areas Ordinance: This ordinance gives the county the ability to implement the goals and policies of the Washington State Growth Management Act and the King County Comprehensive Plan, both of which call for protection of the natural environment and the public health and safety. Sensitive areas covered by this ordinance include areas that are important salmon habitat, such as streams, wetlands, erosion hazard areas, landslide hazard areas, steep slopes, and flood areas. Development proposals affecting streams, for example, must observe minimum buffer widths determined by the class of stream involved. Further, the ordinance obligates the County to apply the most protective regulations available.

Clearing and Grading Code: The purpose of this code is to regulate the clearing and removal of vegetation, excavation, grading and earthwork construction including cuts and fills, gravel pits, dumping, quarrying and mining operations within King County in order to protect public health, safety and welfare. Enforcement of this code allows the County to minimize the impacts upon salmon habitat.